

*intended and expected to accomplish the program's stated purposes is conclusive with respect to whether the program serves the purposes of this section.*

(c) *An economic development program must be within:*

- (1) *the territorial boundaries of the District; or*
- (2) *the District's water service area.*

(d) *An economic development program may be established only by formal action of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall:*

- (1) *establish the goals of the program;*
- (2) *impose requirements on persons participating in or receiving a benefit from the program; and*
- (3) *provide restrictions, procedures, and budget limits the Board of Directors determines are necessary to ensure that the governmental purposes of this section and the program are achieved.*

(e) *An economic development program may involve the granting or lending of money, services, or property to a person engaged in an economic development activity.*

(f) *The District may:*

- (1) *employ staff and spend its resources, other than money received from an ad valorem tax or a general appropriation, to further an economic development program; and*
- (2) *apply for and receive money, grants, or other assistance from any source to implement an economic development program.*

(g) *The District and any public or private person may enter into an agreement with respect to an economic development program.*

(h) *If the District proposes to provide scholarships, grants, loans, or financial assistance to a public fire-fighting organization, the District shall adopt guidelines for determining:*

- (1) *eligibility for the assistance;*
- (2) *the amount of any loan, grant, or other assistance the District may provide; and*
- (3) *the types of equipment, facilities, education, or training for which the assistance may be used.*

SECTION 2. The legislature finds that the economic development programs authorized by Section 11, Chapter 186, Acts of the 50th Legislature, Regular Session, 1947, as added by this Act, are a specific public purpose and governmental function of the Lavaca-Navidad River Authority in accordance with:

- (1) Section 52-a, Article III, Texas Constitution; and
- (2) Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

Passed the Senate on March 16, 2011: Yeas 30, Nays 0; passed the House on May 19, 2011: Yeas 148, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Approved June 17, 2011.

Effective September 1, 2011.

## CHAPTER 617

### S.B. No. 613

#### AN ACT

relating to educational requirements for licensing as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Subsection (a), Section 401.304, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) To be eligible for licensing as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist, an applicant must:

(1) *if the application is for a license in:*

(A) *speech-language pathology*, possess at least a master's degree with a major in at least one of the areas of communicative sciences or disorders from a program accredited by a national accrediting organization that is approved by the board and recognized by the United States secretary of education under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. Section 1001 et seq.) [~~the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association~~] in an accredited or approved college or university; or

(B) *audiology*, possess at least a doctoral degree in audiology or a related hearing science from a program accredited by a national accrediting organization that is approved by the board and recognized by the United States secretary of education under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. Section 1001 et seq.) in an accredited or approved college or university;

(2) submit a transcript from a public or private institution of higher learning showing successful completion of course work in amounts set by the board in:

(A) normal development and use of speech, language, and hearing;

(B) evaluation, habilitation, and rehabilitation of speech, language, and hearing disorders; and

(C) related fields that augment the work of clinical practitioners of speech-language pathology and audiology;

(3) have successfully completed at least 36 semester hours in courses that are acceptable toward a graduate degree by the college or university in which the courses are taken, at least 24 of which must be in the professional area for which the license is requested and at least six of which must be:

(A) in audiology if the application is for a speech-language pathology license; or

(B) in speech-language pathology if the application is for an audiology license;

(4) have completed the minimum number of hours, established by the board, of supervised clinical experience with persons who present a variety of communication disorders; and

(5) have completed the full-time supervised professional experience, as defined by board rule, in which clinical work has been accomplished in the major professional area for which the license is being sought.

SECTION 2. (a) Section 401.304, Occupations Code, as amended by this Act, applies only to a person who applies for a speech-language pathologist or audiologist license on or after the effective date of this Act. A person who applies for a license before that date is governed by the law in effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

(b) A person who holds a license as an audiologist issued before the effective date of this Act may continue to renew that license without complying with the change in law made by this Act to Subsection (a), Section 401.304, Occupations Code.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

Passed the Senate on April 21, 2011: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 19, 2011: Yeas 148, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Approved June 17, 2011.

Effective September 1, 2011.